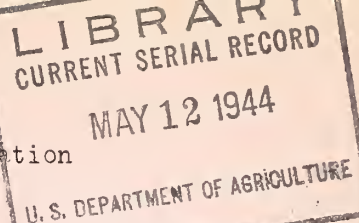


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.913
A2W26

Extension Service - War Food Administration



WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

...- V ...-

This week's Wartime Extension Work is No. 100 in the series. The first of these weekly summaries of State reports was issued March 12, 1942. Since then, the summaries have helped to keep the Washington staff informed on the progress of wartime extension work in the States, and at times have been of considerable assistance when information on a particular program was needed on short notice.

Wartime Extension Work goes to the Secretary's office, the Department's Office of Information, and to offices and agencies cooperating with the Extension Service in war work, as well as to the extension staff in Washington. The only State distribution is to extension directors and editors.

The publication would be of more value if the reports summarized could be more representative of the entire country. In the more than 2 years since the summaries were started, 2 States have never sent in a report, and 5 have sent in but 1 each. About 15 States have reported from 2 to 7 times each. Other States have been heard from more or less regularly, and about a dozen have reported faithfully at monthly intervals. Reports are more helpful when they are sent in immediately after the period covered.

Director Wilson, in his letter of February 18, 1942, first requesting these reports, wrote as follows: "We do not need long or general statements. What we need most is short, specific high lights of major wartime efforts and accomplishments expressed in terms of their effect on farm people, with enough specific examples to show the full implication of major accomplishments and how they were attained."

...- V ...-

KANSAS

April 13, 1944

Efficient production practices.- Survey of nearly 800 farms in central Kansas, conducted with help of neighborhood leaders, indicates several opportunities for increased production by adoption of some of more efficient practices advocated by extension workers. Large percentage of farmers fail to use some of these practices. For example, 40 to 60 percent of farmers reported they do not treat sorghum seed for smut; 20 to 50 percent do not feed mash to poultry; 30 to 90 percent do not fall-plow gardens; 20 to 70 percent do not use garden windbreaks. Out of 25 practices, general adoption was reported for only 2. These were early preparation of

seedbed for wheat, in which but 6 to 20 percent failed; and use of adapted varieties of wheat and sorghum--a practice followed generally by all but about 10 to 15 percent of farmers. Farm committeemen, at county meetings to consider ways and means of increasing food production, checked 4 to 6 practices among those most neglected, to promote in their contacts with other farmers.

Victory Gardens.-- Rural and urban Victory Garden programs have been merged into one under State-wide educational campaign conducted by extension division. Emphasis is on better gardens and maximum production. Work is carried on principally in 40 towns of 4,000 population or more, through organizations already developed by agricultural production committee of State Council of Defense. Practical suggestions on better gardening as well as on increased preservation of fruits and vegetables have been distributed to local Victory Garden organizations.

Home health and sanitation.-- At meetings carried on all over State, farm women have shown great interest in nursing of communicable diseases; home treatment of common ailments; child guidance and home-made toys; use of home safety check list; accident prevention and first aid; special care of feet; mental health; symptoms, causes, and effects of diseases. Women asked especially for information on common cold and influenza. Talks and demonstrations were also given for junior high school boys and girls.

Family post-war planning.-- To find out what "dirt-farmer" is planning for post-war period was object of discussions held by home demonstration agents with farm families, as follow-up of district outlook conferences. Families are saving, and what they plan to do with savings is of concern to all. Electricity, with its conveniences such as lights, refrigerators, and washing machine, heads list in many counties that do not now have electricity or are only partly covered. Running water and bathrooms are close second and are more desired than central heating. Family car will have to be replaced in early post-war years. Replacement of tractor and truck must be considered, too. Some families are saving to help service boys get started again in farming. In some discussions families indicated they were hoping for improved living conditions but as yet had done only vague planning. Discussions of this kind are believed to be provocative of definite planning and need to be encouraged.

Clothing economy.-- Clothing specialist completed series of war schools on tailoring, including making of new garments and remaking old ones. Women in Kansas have found it important to know tailoring processes so they can clothe their families with materials on hand or with new material, for economy in meeting clothing budget. Series of dressmaking schools in eastern and western sections of State has been started. In these schools specialists emphasize speed and accuracy to cut down dressmaking time for such staple garments as house dresses, nightwear, and underwear. Quick processes in sewing will give farm women and girls more time for their many other wartime responsibilities.

Home management.-- Farm women doing extra chores or field work have had to find short cuts in management of time and energy. Often traditional or habitual way of doing things takes too much time. Women are eliminating some household tasks entirely, doing others less often, or simplifying tasks that must be done. So too, in buying bonds and meeting heavier taxes, farm families have to plan more careful

use of increased income. Ways of thrift they are finding helpful are: Paying cash for necessary purchases, planning a longer time ahead, conservation of what they own, and elimination of waste.

Through group discussion in McPherson, Pawnee, and Kiowa Counties, home-management leaders are helping women--as women put it--"to educate our minds," "to learn not to be nervous," "to let things go undone," "to avoid worry," "to be forewarned," "to plan ahead," and "to make changes quickly." Discussions help to clarify individual problems, give community feeling of unity, thus releasing energy for "Win the war with food" program.

4-H Club work.-- Nearly 2,500 4-H Club members, leaders, and extension agents attended district meetings, where contests in model meetings, project talks, demonstrations, 4-H achievement stories, music, and dramatics were held. Stress was placed on greater participation by club members in food production and preservation activities. Club members attending were signed up as 4-H Commandos to increase membership. Some outstanding presentations at district meetings are expected to be repeated at State round-up.

College plans to hold annual State gathering of 4-H Club members, local leaders, and extension workers early in June to give emphasis to wartime contributions of 4-H Club work. Indications are that gathering will be only half usual size and somewhat shorter.

Former club members attending Kansas State College have completed annual of 4-H Club work in Kansas. Special sections describe 4-H participation in food production and in campaigns for selling war bonds and stamps. Publication will go to some 3,000 club members and leaders throughout State.

Grasshopper control.-- Special grasshopper-control program is planned for areas in Thomas and Sherman Counties and in Finney and Kearny Counties. Officers in charge of Federal grasshopper control will furnish materials for Federal baiting and for farmer volunteer baiting. Bait will be mixed and spread along roadsides of all open roads and on railroad right of ways. Mixed bait will be furnished free to farmers at mixing plant. Federal baiting program will require 2 power-driven mixers and 10 power-driven bait spreaders on trucks.

County commissioners in each of four counties plan to encourage farmers to apply bait at time Federal machines are making application. Commissioners, township trustees, and farm bureau officials will tell farmers about program and urge them to apply bait. Federal agents will bait roadsides of somewhat more than 7,584 miles of roads, railroads, and irrigation canals with about 546 tons of bait (dry weight). About 273 additional tons will be required for farmer volunteer baiting. Baiting will be done at best time, estimated to be last part of May and early June.

Dairying.-- Dairymen are being urged to utilize home-grown grains and home-produced proteins in form of grasses and legume hays, to maintain high milk production with feed available.

With approach of flush milk production period, milk plants face difficult problem. Diversion of milk from butterfat sales to whole milk sales has increased volume of milk received daily by many plants till it equals last year's peak. These plants

had some trouble last year in handling milk during flush period because of labor shortage. Now they are losing several key men and find difficulty in keeping one shift fully manned. Present milk figures indicate second shift will be necessary in many plants, and managers do not know where they will get required help. Truck drivers also are cause for concern, since many have been drafted. As result some milk routes have been abandoned and farmers have to separate their whole milk and sell Butterfat at local cream stations.

One modern milk plant, producing dried skim milk and handling 120,000 pounds of milk a day, lost five key men from manufacturing rooms in 1 week, but replaced them with paroled convicts. When first carload of dried skim milk put out by these new workers was inspected for sale to Government, 96 barrels were rejected, majority of remaining 104 graded Standard, and a few barrels still graded Extra. Before loss of these key men, plant had continuously sold its product to Government, virtually entire carload being graded Extra. This plant has 18 truck drivers classified 1-A. One truck route was discontinued when driver could not be replaced, and may be dropped as drivers are lost.

PUERTO RICO
April 5, 1944

Food production.- In 1943 both total acreage planted and total production of 13 important food crops increased considerably over 1942. Acreage went up 71 percent and production 22 percent. These increases were made possible largely by work of both Insular and Federal agencies and wholehearted cooperation of farmers. Outlook for 1944 is not quite so encouraging owing to contemplated liquidation of war emergency planting program and pending final discontinuation of planting program of Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture financed with War Emergency Program funds. Food crop production in 1944 may also be adversely affected by reduction in minimum acreage set for food crop planting in connection with production of sugarcane during crop year 1944-45. Last year farmers were obliged to plant in food crops acreage not less than 20 percent of land on farm on which sugarcane was growing on January 31, 1943. Under 1944-45 farm practice determination, sugar growers will be required to plant in food crops acreage equal to not less than 10 percent of land on which sugarcane is growing on June 30, 1944.

Severe drought has been suffered during last 5½ months, rainfall having been 45 percent below normal. Drought started after tropical disturbance of October 1943. Production in 1943 should have increased more than 22 percent, but tropical disturbance caused damage. Also fertilizers available were of inferior quality. Farmers are waiting for some rainfall to start planting. If drought continues 2 more months, during heaviest planting season, planting will be reduced.

Food-production campaign continues, and war emergency food-production assistants have been doing efficient job. In spite of all handicaps, Puerto Rico probably will make good showing, although not so good as in 1943. Increase in number of Victory Gardens is certain. It is hoped that next year vegetable seeds can be obtained from States to establish Victory Gardens in urban and rural areas of Puerto Rico.

4-H Club work.- 4-H Mobilization Week was complete success, as follows:

4-H members enrolled.....	1,718
Victory members enrolled	5,219
New clubs organized	13
Meetings held.....	338
Attendance at meetings.....	8,960
Tours conducted	10
Parades held	6
Radio programs.....	7
Displays of 4-H work.....	12

WASHINGTON
April 27, 1944

Labor-saving demonstration.- Series of labor-saving demonstrations of farm and home equipment was recently concluded in 23 counties. As many as 1,500 people attended and requested 1,520 blueprints of labor-saving devices at single meeting. Home-management equipment demonstrations are now winding up.

"Save the food" program.- Special committee has been appointed to determine advisability of starting program "to prevent waste caused by loss of food after it is produced," and to develop comprehensive plans if such a program seems advisable. Suggested phases are rodent control, accident prevention, parasite control, fire prevention, culling low-producing animals, control of plant diseases, and insects.

4-H Club camps.- In 30 counties plans have been announced for 4-H Club county camps, starting early in June and running well into August. State office is assigning specialists to counties as they report plans. Several counties will meet together.

Farm labor.- During month 26 emergency farm labor employment offices were organized and set up. County agents in 18 counties are opening full-time labor offices for special crop seasons, and about 100 small, part-time offices have been set up, primarily with volunteer help. Farm labor staff is working on plans to divide possible labor supplies into regular and emergency categories.

Food preservation.- Four food preservation conferences designed to bring community instructors up to date have been held. Five public canned-foods spoilage clinics were conducted in conjunction with the conferences. Reports show more spoiled tomatoes were found than any other food.

